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CHAL 1112-60

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Removal of Paint ¹/₆ from U-2 Aircraft

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for approval of the Deputy Director (Plans). Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 5.
2. Of the publicity stemming from the 1 May incident, reference to its blue-black color has been emphasized by the press. It is felt that, in the public mind at least, this color has a direct relationship to the U-2's which have been used for the spy flights. A first step toward re-establishing an air of innocence for future use of our U-2's is to consider removal of this stigma.
3. If Project U-2's were unpainted as are FOG aircraft, then they would very likely be lost in the general picture as far as color is concerned. Certainly one major identifying feature would be removed. The unpainted aircraft suggests that a different and innocent use is being made of the U-2.
4. The unpainted aircraft would be used for all normal type missions, i. e., training flights, R & D flights, and overt operations such as, air sampling and weather data collection. For operational overflights and other covert missions, the aircraft could be repainted their original blue-black color.
5. It is, therefore, recommended that the paint be removed from all Project U-2's. If corrosion control requires painting, it will be of a color similar to current operational single engine aircraft.

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

The recommendation contained in paragraph 5 is approved:
APPROVED:

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director (Plans)

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